

Amateur Computer Group of New Jersey NEWS

Volume 37, Number 09

September 2012

Letter to the Editor

Bob,

On page 3 of the August issue of the ACGNJ newsletter, you very nicely gave me a photo credit for the ACGNJ TCF table photo. One minor typo: my last name was misspelled (it only has one "f", not two).

Could you put a correction into the next NL?

Eric Hafler

Dear Eric,

Here's the correction you requested. As a person whose last name is often misspelled, I sympathize with you completely, and I apologize for spelling your name incorrectly.

Thank you for sending us that photo, and I look forward to further contributions from you in the future.

Sincerely,

Bob Hawes

ACGNJ Announcements

Main Meeting - Friday, September 7th, 8 to 10 PM

Topic: Software for going Back To School.

Window Pains Meeting - Friday, Sept. 21st, 8 to 10 PM

Topic: Windows 8 Operating System, Surface Tablet and Microsoft Office 2013.



<http://www.acgnj.org>

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ACGNJ Meetings

For the very latest news on ACGNJ meetings, please visit the ACGNJ Website (www.acgnj.org).

Main Meeting: Friday, September 7. 8:00 PM

Evan Williams (president (at) acgnj.org)

Layman's Forum: Monday, September 10, 8:00 PM

Matt Skoda (som359 (at) aol.com)

Hardware Workshop: Monday, September 10, 8 PM

Mike Reagan (hardware (at) acgnj.org)

Java: Tuesday, September 11, 7:30 PM

Mike Redlich (mike (at) redlich.net)

WebDev: Wednesday, September 12, 7:30 PM

Evan Williams (president (at) acgnj.org)

Investing: Thursday, September 13, 8:00 PM

Jim Cooper (jim (at) thecoopers.org).

NJ Gamers: Friday, September 14, 6:00 PM

Gregg McCarthy (greggmajestic (at) gmail.com)

Firefox: Monday, September 17, 7:30 PM

David McRitchie (firefox (at) acgnj.org)

C/C++: Tuesday, September 18, 7:30 PM

Bruce Arnold (barnold (at) ieee.org)

Window Pains: Friday, September 21, 8:00 PM

John Raff (john (at) jraff.com)

Lunics (Linux/UNIX): Mon. October 1, 8:00 PM

Andreas Meyer (lunics (at) acgnj.org)

Board of Directors Meeting: Tues, Oct. 2, 7:00 PM

Evan Williams (president (at) acgnj.org)

All meetings, unless otherwise noted, are at the Scotch Plains Rescue Squad, 1916 Bartle Ave, Scotch Plains, New Jersey. Directions and map on back page.

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Officers, Directors and Leaders

President	Evan Williams	(908) 359-8070	Director Emeritus	Sol Libes	(609) 520-9024
Vice President	(Open)		Through 2012	Brenda Bell	
Treasurer	Malathi Masurekar	(732) 560-1534		Simon Grindlinger	
Secretary	Bob Hawes			Don McBride	
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C Languages	Bruce Arnold	(908) 735-7898		Frank Warren	(908) 756-1681
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Java	Michael Redlich	(908) 246-0410	Financial	Evan Williams	(908) 359-8070
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LUNICS	Andreas Meyer		Membership	Bob Hawes	
Mobile Devices	Brenda Bell		Newsletter	Bob Hawes	
NJ Gamers	Gregg McCarthy		Publicity	Gregg McCarthy	
WebDev	Evan Williams	(908) 359-8070	Trenton Computer Fest	Mike Redlich	(908) 246-0410
Window Pains	John Raff	(973) 992-9002	Vendor Liaison	Arnold Milstein	(908) 753-8036
			Webmaster	John Raff	(973) 992-9002

ACGNJ News

Editor

Robert D. Hawes
bob.hawes@acgnj.org

Editor Emeritus

(and Emergency Backup Publisher)
 Barbara DeGroot
 145 Gun Club Road
 Palmerton PA 18071
 Tel: (570) 606-3596
bdegroot@ptd.net

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Submissions: Articles, reviews, cartoons, illustrations. Most common formats are acceptable. Graphics embedded in the document must also be sent as separate files. E-mail submissions to newsletter@acgnj.org preferred. **Always confirm.** Date review and include name of word processor used, your name, address and phone and name, address and phone of manufacturer, if available.

Tips for reviewers: Why does anyone need it? Why did you like it or hate it? Ease (or difficulty) of installation, learning and use. Would you pay for it?

Advertising: Non-commercial announcements from members are free. Commercial ads 15 cents per word, \$5 minimum. Camera ready display ads: Full page (7 x 10 inches) \$150, two-thirds page (4.5 x 10) \$115, half-page \$85, one-third \$57, quarter \$50, eighth \$30. Discount 10% on 3 or more consecutive insertions. Enclose payment.

Publication Exchange: Other computer user groups are invited to send a subscription to ACGNJ at the address below. We will respond in kind.

Address Changes should be e-mailed to membership@acgnj.org or sent to ACGNJ at the address below.

Membership: Regular (now includes *all* family members who reside at the same address): 1 year \$25, 2 years \$40, 3 years \$55. Student: 1 year \$20. Senior Citizen (over 65): 1 year \$20, 3 years \$45. Send name, address and payment to ACGNJ, PO Box 135, Scotch Plains NJ 07076.

Typographic Note: This ACGNJ News was produced using Scribus 1.3.3.13. Font families used are Times New Roman (TT) for body text, Arial (TT) for headlines.

E-Mail Addresses

Here are the e-mail addresses of ACGNJ Officers, Directors and SIG Leaders (and the Newsletter Editor). This list is also at <http://www.acgnj.org/officers.html>.

Bruce Arnold	barnold@ieee.org
Brenda Bell	mobdevsig@acgnj.org
Jim Cooper	jim@thecoopers.org
Barbara DeGroot	bdegroot@ptd.net
Mark Douches	pcproblems@pobox.com
David Eisen	ultradave@gmail.com
Bill Farrell	wfarr18124@aol.com
Manuel Goyenechea	Goya@acgnjdotnetsig.org
Bob Hawes	bob.hawes@acgnj.org
Sol Libes	sol@libes.com
Malathi Masurekar	masureka@umdnj.edu
Don McBride	don@mcbride.name
Gregg McCarthy	greggmcc@optonline.net
David McRitchie	dmcritchie@hotmail.com
Andreas Meyer	lunics@acgnj.org
Arnold Milstein	mrflark@yahoo.com
John Raff	john@jraff.com
Mike Reagan	hardware@acgnj.org
Mike Redlich	mike@redlich.net
Matt Skoda	som359@aol.com
Paul Syers	paul.syers@acgnj.org
Lenny Thomas	lennythomas@technologist.com
Scott Vincent	scottvin@optonline.net
Frank Warren	kb4cyc@webwarren.com
Evan Williams	tech@evanwilliamsconsulting.com

Foreign Imports

(Part 2 of 2)

Bob Hawes, ACGNJ

Earlier this year, in mid-March, I began writing an article titled *A Skeleton In My Closet*. In it, I “self-documented” the steps I was taking to create a fresh newsletter working directory, where I intended to store the source files for our April, May and June issues. This way, I took the notes that I’d need for my own reference in June (when I had to create another new working directory for July, August and September); and I converted them into a newsletter article as well. At about the same time, I was also working on an article called *Foreign Imports*, describing the steps I had to take to import material from outside sources into Scribus (our desktop publisher). This one had the same dual purpose: notes for myself and publishable material for our newsletter. Because I’d already completed my own articles for our April and May issues, I tentatively planned to put *Skeleton* in our June issue, and *Imports* in our August issue. (Leaving an opening for a yet-to-be-written “buffer” article on some different

subject between them). Thus, as April started, I had a nice “cushion” of completed or almost-completed articles.

Then, in May, I was suddenly hospitalized. When I finally got out, our June newsletter was almost a month late. In fact, it was already past time to start on the July issue; and all I had left were *Skeleton* and *Imports*. (Note that this refers only to articles written by *me*. I actually had a nice supply of stuff written by other people). Not wanting to use up both articles and leave myself with nothing for August, I split *Skeleton* in two, and used half for June and half for July. Later, I did the same with *Imports*, using the first half for August, and saving the second half for this, our September issue. Well, that’s enough background explanation. Let’s proceed to some informative content; but first, a brief digression into my childhood.

My parents had a boxed set of original cast

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recordings from the 1956 Broadway musical *My Fair Lady*, by Alan Jay Lerner and Frederick Loewe. (It’s plot was based on *Pygmalion* by George Bernard Shaw). In it, there’s a song titled *Why Can’t the English...* In my memory, I can still clearly hear Rex Harrison (playing Henry Higgins) saying “The French really don’t care what they say, as long as they sound good while they’re saying it”. Unfortunately for me, when I searched the Internet to verify my “facts”, the words I found for this quote were significantly different from the words I remember. Also, I didn’t have any luck finding out if this was a direct quote from Shaw or not. However, for the purposes of this article, *my* version works better. So I’m keeping it. Therefore, we’ll proceed as follows:

In the same way, a desktop publisher doesn’t care about what you’ve written. It’s job is to make it *look* good. However, there *can* be conflicts between content and appearance; and sometimes the publisher needs your help. For instance, I like the text in my newsletters to line up evenly on *both* sides of my

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columns. This is known as justification, and it’s accomplished by *expanding* the spaces separating the words in each row of text until they all line up nicely at both ends. Occasionally, though, it causes problems of its own. Here’s an example: Several big words close together can result in a line with really *huge* spaces between a very few words. I consider this situation to be quite ugly. If it happens, I go back to my word processor’s work file, and I manually hyphenate one or more of those words. Then, I re-import that file into Scribus again. Often, in this particular situation, I have to repeat this process several times, varying the placement of my hyphens, before I can get everything “just right”.

There’s also a phenomenon that I call “loose wrapping”. My conjectural explanation for it is as follows: When an article is first being imported into Scribus, a line of words could come in that just happens to be *exactly* as long as the target text frame is wide, leaving *no* “wiggle room” at all. In such a situation, Scribus might initially decide to “play it safe” by moving the last word of that line to the

beginning of the following line. In rare cases, such a change can make no difference to the article as a whole; but usually, the effects will “snowball”. Once, I wound up with *four* extra lines at the end of an article, caused by just one loose wrap near its beginning.

The problem is that Scribus *WILL* eventually reconsider its initial decision, and “tighten” things up by moving the word in question back to the end of its original line. Then, the effects will snowball in reverse. In the example mentioned above, I suddenly wound up with four *blank* lines at the end of that article, leaving a big ugly white hole in my page layout. I've searched, but I haven't yet found a way to force Scribus to tighten up all its lines on demand. However, I *have* found a way to make it reveal the presence of any and all loose wraps; and what's more, there's actually something that I can *do* about them.

This next bit is pure speculation on my part, but it fits the facts, and it *works*. I know that Scribus stores the text from its imported files somewhere in its

work file, and I know that it also stores the size, location, and relative link positions of all the text frames on all of its pages somewhere in its work file. However, my guess is that it *doesn't* store that text inside those frames. So every time I open a previously saved Scribus work file, Scribus has to reload all of that text into all of those frames, just as it had to do as each of those articles was originally imported. Thus, right after Scribus starts, any and all of its problem wraps will still be “loose”.

Therefore, at the end of an editing session, when I've got most things lined up nicely, I save my work file, export a test PDF file, and then exit Scribus. Next, I restart Scribus again, and I immediately export another PDF. Any “Text overflow” error messages that I get will each identify the *last* frame of an article containing one or more loosely wrapped lines. (That's assuming I *didn't* get any such error messages when I exported the first PDF, of course). After that, I compare the two PDF files, to find the first frame in the affected article where the text *stopped* wrapping identically. That's where my

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problem is located.

Knowing this, I can now *provide* some “wiggle room”. To do that, I go to the corresponding text frame (or frames, if more than one error came up) in the Scribus work file, and I change the width of *only* that frame (or frames) from 3.6 inches to 3.61 inches (a difference that most people *can't* actually see with the naked eye), save my work file, and exit Scribus. Finally, I restart Scribus yet again, and immediately export yet another PDF. If I get no errors, I've *probably* solved the problem; but I have to look at the last frames of any affected articles to make sure that I haven't changed things *too* much. If I find one or more *extra* blank lines at the end, then I have to go back to the work file and try a different change in width. I've used values from 3.605 to 3.615 (beyond that, you *can* see the difference). Once, I could get my article to be neither too short nor too long *only* if I set my width to *exactly* 3.607 inches.

Now we come to another matter of “look and feel”: white space balance. It's beyond the scope of this article to discuss every possible move I might have

to make on a page containing both header text frames and article text frames (not to mention image frames); but we *can* discuss a “middle” page, containing only four identically sized article text frames. On such a page, there are four white bands that stretch across the page from side to side. The first is between the black bar (at the top of the page) and the two “upper” text frames. The second is between those two upper frames and the “center separator” (the area containing the “Continued Above Right” and “Continued Below Left” messages). The third is between the center separator and the two “lower” text frames; and the fourth is between those two lower frames and the footer. I like to set the heights of those four bands as close to equal as possible.

I do this by adjusting the “Y” coordinates of the four article text frames. The default Y position for the two upper text frames is 0.8 inches. Often, I change that to 0.85 or 0.9 inches (or, occasionally, to some other value within that range) to get things “just right”. The default Y position for the two lower text

frames is 5.66 inches. Often, I change that to 5.7 or 5.75 inches (or, as noted above, to some other value within that range). In actual fact, I *can* move the center separator up or down if necessary, but I try very hard *not* to do this. I *never* change the positions of the black bar or the footer.

While I'm doing the white space balance adjustments above, I sometimes run into another glitch as well. When an article is being loaded into Scribus, the lines in one or more of its text frames might stack up in such a way as to leave a lot of empty space at the bottom. Now, it's *never* a good idea to have too much unused space at the end of a linked text frame. An unwanted extra line could spontaneously pop back over from the following frame, thus messing up the layout of the whole article. So I change the heights of any such frames from 4.6 inches to 4.55 (or even 4.5) inches.

Only when I've got *everything else* finished *precisely* the way I want do I proceed to my last two tasks (both of which, in an ideal world, would *already* have been automatically done by Scribus).

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written by me. So technically, my title is no good, since it doesn't really reflect the contents of this article anymore. Of course, it's much too late to do

The first is adding my "little computer pictures". When I was making our May 2012 issue, it took me 43 minutes to insert nine of them at the ends of nine articles (one of my own and eight "imports"). The second is adding my "wacky kludges", so I'll have Internet links that *actually work*. When I was making our May 2012 issue, it took me one hour and five minutes to insert 32 of them into those eight imported articles. (That month, my own article didn't contain any links). For details about how the "wacky kludges" were accomplished, see *A Skeleton In My Closet (Part 1 of 2)* in our June 2012 issue; and for details about those "little computer pictures", see *A Skeleton In My Closet (Part 2 of 2)* in our July 2012 issue.

One final note: Many (but *not* all) of the actions described last month in Part 1 applied *only* to "foreign imports". However, as I was reading through this article "one last time" (prior to importing it into my Scribus work file for September), I noticed that *ALL* of the actions described in this second half *also* apply to articles

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anything about it now; but I love to nit-pick, so I thought I'd mention it here.

See you next month. ☐

Degunking Windows 7

George Harding, Treasurer, Tucson Computer Society, AZ

Newsletter: eJournal (www.aztcs.org) georgehardingsbd (at) earthlink.net

The book is written by Joli Ballew, an author (36 books!), trainer and web site manager. She has written for the McGraw-Hill How to Do Everything series. The book has 273 pages, including an extensive Index of 19 pages. The theme of the book is how to easily clean up your PC and speed it up. The process does not involve any special tools. All you need is already contained in Windows 7. If you are running XP, Vista or 2000, many of the tools you need are available in those programs as well. A few are only in Windows 7

The author has developed a 12-step process for degunking your computer. Here it is:

1 . Get rid of files and programs you don't need.

- 2 . Organize the remaining files and folders.
- 3 . Clean up your desktop, Start menu and Task Bar.
- 4 . Optimize your hard drive and limit the programs that run in the background.
- 5 . Clean up and secure Internet Explorer and consider alternate web browsers.
- 6 . Reduce e-mail spam, back up e-mail and organize e-mail.
- 7 . Install Windows updates and reconfigure anti-virus, anti-malware and anti-adware programs.
- 8 . Clean up your network and create a homegroup.
- 9 . Fix problems with media, including duplicate files, files that won't play and files that are taking up hard drive space unnecessarily.

10 . Optimize syncing with cell phones, music players, iPads, iPhones, netbooks and laptops.

11 . Get rid of errors for hardware, the operating system and third-party programs.

12 . Create a working, reliable and fool-proof backup system.

She realizes that not everyone can afford the time or is interested in doing every one of the steps. To address that she has developed 10-minute, 30-minute, one-hour and half-day programs. These capture the most significant actions that will give the most benefit for the time allotted.

The first step is probably the most difficult and time-consuming, because you pretty much have to look at a lot of the document, pictures and media files to determine what can be trashed and what must be saved. If you click on the Change My View button (in Documents or any folder) and select Details, simply click on the Date header to sort by date and see the oldest files. These may be the most likely ones to delete.

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inside the major system categories. For example, to organize your client letters, create folders in the My Documents folder for each client and save files in each for your clients. Likewise, for pictures, classify your photos by creating a folder for each trip or subject. You'll be able to find the pics you need much more easily this way.

Lastly, defragment your hard drive to reorder and reconnect the files you've moved and deleted. Right click your drive in Windows Explorer, choose Properties, then Tools. Click Analyze to see if defragmenting would be advantageous. You can also adjust the scheduled defragmentation that's currently set up.

You should clean up your Desktop by deleting any icons and shortcuts you don't use. You can put a shortcut on the Desktop for Computer or Network by browsing to that folder and right-clicking. Choose Send To/Desktop to create a shortcut.

You can customize your Start menu by right-clicking the Start icon and choosing Properties, then click on Customize. I like the Recent Items choice because it

If you press the Delete key or right-click and select Delete, the file will be moved from its current location to the Recycle Bin. This is just a different location on your hard drive, which you can empty from time to time. To permanently delete a file, hold down Shift while you delete.

Getting rid of unused and unwanted programs can be easily done through Control Panel/Programs. Here, you can uninstall those programs you no longer need and those you didn't know you had. While you're there, note on the left side of the frame the option to turn off Windows components. Here, you can turn off or on various Windows components.

One last thing to do to clean things up is to run Disk Cleanup. In the Start menu Search window, type "cleanup" and click on Free up Disk Space.

When the analysis is done, you see a list of types of files and the amount of space that would be freed up by deletion. Check or uncheck as appropriate and click OK.

You can organize your files by creating folders

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avoids having to first launch an application, then open the document I want to continue with. You can also pin items to the Start Menu or Task Bar by right-clicking and selecting Pin to Start Menu or Pin to Task Menu.

The author points out several things you can do to optimize your hard drive: convert to NTFS (assuming you're still on FAT), run Check Disk (under Properties of your drive), run Performance tests, run Disk Cleanup.

One of the most powerful enhancements is in Performance in Control Panel. Here you can adjust visual effects, control indexing and change system settings.

There's a chapter on IE8, including how to turn on Compatibility View, remove toolbars and add-ins, explore privacy and security settings.

Chapter 8 deals with email, how to organize it, filter it and how best to deal with spam. It also shows you how to back-up email lists.

Chapter 9 deals with the important subjects of security, Windows Update and the use of firewalls

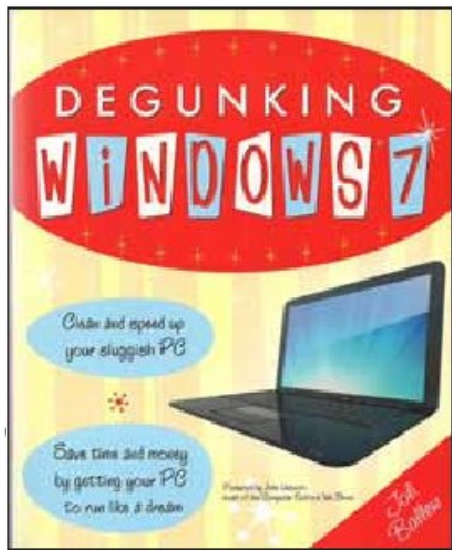
and other security packages.

The balance of the chapters deal with less crucial subjects. They may be of interest to some users, but probably not all.

I found this book to be useful. I tried out many of the

ideas both to see how they worked and to see the improvement that might result.

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The Graphics Side of Word

Nancy DeMarte, Columnist, Office Talk, Sarasota PCUG, Inc., Florida

Newsletter: Sarasota PC Monitor (www.spcug.org) ndemarte (at) Verizon.net

It is natural to think that a word-processing program would deal only with words. Certainly, most commands in Microsoft Word do relate to editing or formatting text. But each new version of Word has introduced more ways to enhance text with graphical elements like clip art and photos. This article will deal with the graphics side of Word 2007 -- what the options are and how to use them within a Word document. Many of these techniques apply to Word 2003 as well; all apply to Word 2007 and 2010.

This article's focus will be on the types of graphics that may be inserted within a Word document and how to insert them successfully. To do this, we need to explore the Illustrations group within the Insert tab in Word 2007.

Inserting Pictures

Since a picture is worth a thousand words, often adding a photo to a document helps clarify its meaning. To do this, open a Word document and place the cursor on the page where you want a photo to appear. Double-clicking in any blank space inside the margins will position the cursor at that spot.

Click the Insert tab - Picture. Your Pictures folder will open, allowing you to select a photo from your collection. Click the photo, then click Insert to make the photo appear in your document. Depending on its size, the photo may fill the screen, blocking out the text, or jump to the next page. Instead of panicking, find one of the corners of the photo and drag it toward the center to reduce its size while maintaining its proportions. When the photo reaches the desired size, right click it and select Text-wrapping - Tight or Square from the menu. This will allow the photo to be moved around and positioned within the document with text surrounding it. You can experiment with other text-wrapping choices if you want the photo positioned differently, such as behind the text. Sometimes Text-wrapping is not visible in this menu. Choose Format Picture instead, then Layout, to get the text-wrapping choices.

When you select the photo now, you will notice that a new tab called Format has appeared in the ribbon at the top of the screen with the phrase Picture Tools above it. Click Picture Tools to reveal commands

related to editing and formatting the photo. These tools allow you to brighten or crop the photo, add borders and effects, and change its position or size. When you deselect the photo, notice that the Format tab and Picture Tools disappear.

Inserting Clip Art

Office 2007 has extended the definition of Clip Art to include not only the standard drawings and photos, but also movies and sounds. There are thousands of these items which can be inserted into your documents. Open your document and click the Insert tab - Clip Art. Fortunately, the Clip Art dialog box, which opens along the right side of the screen, contains a powerful search feature. Begin by entering a search term, like "birthday cake." Then, using the drop down menus, choose whether to search just on your computer, the Microsoft Office website, the whole web or all of these (best choice). You can also choose which kind of media you want to search, such as clip art or sounds only. With a fast Internet connection, it takes only a couple of seconds for the Clip Art search box to return items which

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the document where you want the shape to appear. Hold down the left mouse button and drag any direction to make the shape visible. Once it's there, it can be resized by dragging one of the "handles" (small squares along the edge) and moved the same way as clip art. Right-clicking the shape gives you a menu of options similar to those for a photo or clip art.

If you select the shape in your document, the Format tab appears again but with new commands. Click Drawing Tools to see ways to enhance your object. For example, you can choose fill colors, effects, and arrangements of multiple objects.

If you are designing a complex arrangement of shapes, you may wish to use the Drawing Canvas tool which is found at the bottom of the shapes gallery. This tool creates a large area in which to put multiple graphic elements to create a complex drawing. The canvas keeps objects from moving around unexpectedly, but can be difficult to control.

A simpler way to work with multiple objects is to use the tools found in the Arrangements group in

meet your search criteria after you start your search.

To add a clip art item to your document, merely drag it from the Clip Art box to your document. To add more than one item at a time, hold down the Ctrl key while you select items, then drag the whole group together. Once the clips are in the document, follow the same general instructions for resizing, text wrapping, and moving as you did for photos. A Help command at the bottom of the Clip Art box can help you solve any problems you encounter. You may close the clip art dialog box when finished adding clips.

Inserting Shapes

Older versions of Word had a Drawing toolbar which gave access to a few shapes and tools for working with them. Word 2007 has made a noticeable improvement in the number of available shapes and how shapes are organized. On the Insert tab, click Shapes in the Illustrations group to open the expanded gallery. Click the shape you want, but don't expect it to appear instantly in your document the way a photo does. Instead, you must click inside

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Drawing Tools. One command lets you move an object to the front or back of the arrangement; another lets you rotate an object. An especially useful command is Group, which is a simple way to put objects together. First arrange the objects in your document. Then, while holding down the Ctrl key, select all the shapes you need. Click Drawing Tools - Group - Group to merge them so they are treated like one object. If you want to split them apart, click Group - Ungroup.

These three types of graphic items -- pictures, clip art, and shapes -- were part of earlier versions of Word. They were improved in Word 2007 by offering more choices and better organization of tools. In a future article we will continue with a look at a new graphic feature introduced in Word 2007 called Smart Art, plus the improved Charts element, and some ways that text can become art as well.

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The Tip Corner

*Bill Sheff, Novice SIG Coordinator, Lehigh Valley Computer Group, PA
Newsletter: The LVCG Journal (www.lvcg.org) Nsheff (at) aol.com*

Rename Multiple Files at Once

Did you ever have a bunch of files, folders or pictures with similar names like DSC_12234? They are so uninformative. So I used to open Picasa and do a batch rename... it worked. But here is a simpler way without opening up another program. Highlight all the files/folder in question. Right-click, choose Rename and call it some-thing that best describes them. For example, Family Picnic. Quick as a flash they are renamed to a uniform more meaningful name. The only thing I don't like is that the sequential numbers are put in parenthesis while Picasa allows you to set the numbering convention. Either way you get rid of files called File1, File2, etc.

Reformat a flash drive

I think this is a tip that is not really needed, however there might be some of you who are wondering if you have the capability of reformatting a flash drive. Well you do, and here is a reason you might want to. Lots of flash drives are formatted in FAT32. Today

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programs, such as security or maintenance programs you might want to copy them to your hard drive during the format and copy them back over after the format is finished. A format destroys all data (or at least hides it from normal viewing).

Also, there is some thought that reformatting will reduce the life of your flash drive. Does it? By how much? Hard to quantify, and even harder to decide if that it actually does reduce the life of your drive. I really wouldn't worry about that.

Storing important files

While on the subject, which is better for storing an important file? Your computer hard drive? External drives? Or optical media such as CDs and DVDs? Where to store precious pictures or personal data is a serious question. How long will a disk or drive last? Will it fail? Will the medium become obsolete? (Anybody still remember floppy disks?) To answer this question, first we need to look at some of the qualities and limitations which the most commonly available storage formats present.

Storage Format: Hard Disk Drives

Pros: Large storage capacity for the price / Typically

September 2012

we know that a more space saving method is the format NTFS. So to pump up the drive to save a few more files you would want to change to the NTFS format. Actually, a flash drive can be reformatted the same way as any other drive.

As we know, when you plug in a flash drive your computer automatically assigns it a drive name and it looks like any other hard drive, so just go to "Computer", right-click on the drive, and then click on "format". You then have some options. File type should be NTFS (or FAT32 if available). You can then assign a name to the drive, and finally you can decide if you want full or quick format. The full format will take a lot of time and actually reformat the whole drive. The quick format just erases the File Index. It does not change any bytes on the drive, Then just click on "Start". When done the "format will say complete".

Now, here are a couple of caveats you should be aware of. If the flash drive came with certain

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good lifespan.

Cons: Susceptible to malfunction due to mechanical failures and physical impact.

Inside your computer (desktop or laptop) is probably the safest place to store your hard drive(s,) but doing so will not guarantee a trouble free experience. Why? There are just too many moving parts.

Inside the hard drive case are discs which spin as a mechanical arm which moves back and forth above the disc surface, reading and writing data to and from the platters beneath. While this method of data storage has worked for many, many years, there has always been one unavoidable fault which leads to inevitable failure of a hard drive...the aforementioned mechanical parts. As with any device which relies on constant and precise mechanical movement to run, hard drive parts eventually fail, usually taking your data to the grave with them. Due to the precision with which they operate, hard impacts may also cause a hard drive to read or write data in error, and possibly fail altogether as well. Despite these shortcomings, most hard drives have a life expectancy of at least 3-5

The Tip Corner, *continued*

years, with many reportedly living a healthy life at 10+ years of age.

Storage Format: Optical Media (CD-R / DVD-R)

Pros: Inexpensive, portable

Cons: Inconsistent lifespan, temperamental storage requirements, data lost over time due to degradation

Optical media are quite handy for short term storage of data. However, they remain a less than desirable choice for long term and mission critical data archival. The reason is simple: everyday optical media degrades quickly and easily. Although many manufacturers claim their optical media will last for 30 years or more under perfect conditions, their actual lifespan with normal use and storage is typically closer to a few years (at most) than a few decades. There are many different factors which conspire against the lifespan of CD-R's and DVD-R's; sub-par dyes (the reflective portion of a disc where data is written) which degrade much sooner than rated, exposure to heat, cold, or sunlight which also degrade said dyes, and weak or wrongly calibrated optical disc burners which fail to write

data as intended. All of these factors make every day optical media formats a less than favorable storage choice; ok for short term data storage, but definitely not the choice for long term backup of important information.

Storage Format: Flash Drives

Pros: Durability, Versatility

Cons: Debatable life span, higher price per gigabyte

The last decade has given rise to the newest consumer storage devices in this comparison: solid state flash (aka thumb) drives. Unlike the aforementioned storage mediums, flash drives use no moving parts or temperate dyes to store data, relying instead on electrical pulses to write data to a static storage chip. This method of storage allows for much higher shock resistance and durability, as well as smaller form factors and increased portability, than what is traditionally offered in a hard drive or CD/DVD.

The downside to this fantastic usability is a generally higher price per mega/gigabyte (i.e. for the price of a 32GB flash drive, you could purchase a

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larger portable hard drive with a terabyte (1000 gigabytes) of storage.) The life expectancy of flash drives is also up for debate, as the solid state memory used to store your data does wear out the more times you write to it. Good quality flash drives from well known, trusted manufacturers are typically agreed to have a life span of a few years or more, making the flash drive a good choice for your everyday data storage needs.

By now you're probably thinking to yourself "should I use any of these formats to store my data?" The answer is yes: use all of them. If you want to sleep soundly at night without worrying about your irreplaceable pictures, videos, documents, etc.,

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regularly backup your important data on at least two sources; creating duplicates which will allow you to retrieve your important information should any one backup fail completely. And keep in mind, as newer methods arrive, such as BluRay disks or bubble memory or cheaper solid state drives, the older methods such as CDs and DVDs start fading away. As I asked earlier, "Remember the floppy drives?" I gave away hundreds of 5 ¼ floppies, and still have hundreds of 3 ½ drives. Anybody still have a drive to run them on??

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Review: Marketing Fine Art Photography

Tanya Mattson, a member of the Computer Users of Erie, PA

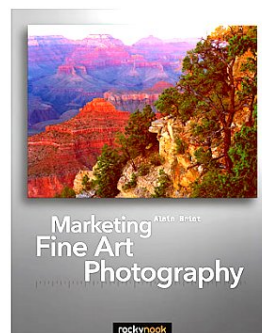
Newsletter: Horizons (www.cuerie.com) cuerie1 (at) verizon.net

When you pick up this eye-catching book with the glorious color landscape photograph on the cover, one has a sense of anticipation about it. I could not wait to delve inside...which I immediately did.

I will admit I was daunted at first by the Table of

Contents; it's three pages long. That's a lot of material in a book that is 313 pages.

The book is divided into six parts with a total of 21



chapters, not to mention a Conclusion and two Appendices.

The listing of the various parts is just an overview of what is found in the individual chapters...simple to read, but offering a glimpse at what is contained within. The six parts are:

- 1- Selling Fine Art Photography
- 2- What to Sell and Where to Sell It
- 3- Fundamental Aspects of Marketing, Salesmanship and Business
- 4- Selling Your Work at Shows
- 5- Personal Skills
- 6- Business and Marketing Tools

The most intriguing aspect in the detailed Table of Contents was the “Skill Enhancement Exercises” at the end of various chapters. This excited me in an odd way – not only was the author interested in getting his information out, but also let the reader test their knowledge and understanding along the way.

So I began with Part 1- Selling Fine Art

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Better marketing results in better sales.

The only secret to marketing is finding what works for you, and then systematically apply the system.

The goal of marketing is to generate sales that would not otherwise be generated.

The purpose of marketing is persuasion and how to achieve it.

The key element of marketing is effectiveness.

So there is the goal, purpose and key of marketing – why read the book?

Besides the photos, inspiring quotes and exercises, there is the easy read of the book itself. Anyone interested in marketing should read it. It contains lots of good information that can be geared to not only the Fine Art Photographer but can also be applicable outside of that category.

I think the most telling section of the book was Part 5 – it’s about Skills. The fourth category is titled ‘Personal Skills.’ Starting with Advice, Anger, Approach, and Attitude through to Time, Validation, Winning, Why, and You. The author has great insight

Photography. Part 1 was found on a double page spread of another beautiful landscape – already I was starting to feel creative. Next page, another photo and a quote:

“Successful people do things that unsuccessful people are unwilling to do” –

John Maxwell

Chapter 1 was aptly named “Taking Control of Your Destiny.”

What Alain discusses in the beginning is that a successful photographic business is about choices, taking control and making sacrifices. That if you choose to want it bad enough to work hard enough, dreams do come true.

He also discloses the “best kept secret” is also the best known secret in the advertising world, which is as follows: “A poor photograph that is well-marketed will ***always outsell*** a great photograph that is poorly marketed.”

Better equipment, expense equipment, “pretty” pictures – don’t sell photographs. Marketing does.

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on how photographers tick, and the approaches that leads one to the road of success.

Some of the best advice Briot gives the beginner is to try your marketing at Art Shows, as a way to test the waters, and to get a grasp on what sells and doesn’t out of your image library. Sound advice for those starting out with a tight budget.

If you’re really serious about marketing your photography, especially to make a living (or supplement your current income), be sure to check this volume out. It is worth many times the cover price in value to you. It’s like getting a college-level marketing class between two covers.

Definitely a ‘Must Have’ for the serious photographer.

Marketing Fine Art Photography is published by Rocky Nook, and is available on Amazon.com for a price of \$26.97, a discount of 40% off list price.

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Tracking the latest information on anything

John Weigle, Editor, Channel Islands PCUG, CA

Newsletter: *The Outer Edge* (www.cipcug.org) [jweigle \(at\) vcnet.com](mailto:jweigle@vcnet.com)

If you want to keep track of the latest news and Web postings on specific subjects, give Google Alerts a try.

I've been using the feature for some time to track three subjects I'm interested in: UFOs, Annette Funicello and Sally Field. I've been interested in UFOs since the early 1950s, a fan of Annette since the Mickey Mouse Club Days and a fan of Field since her first TV appearance as Gidget. So now you know three of my not-very-secret "secrets."

Google explains its alerts this way at <http://www.google.com/alerts>: "Google Alerts are email updates of the latest relevant Google results (web, news, etc.) based on your choice of query or topic."

Enter the topic you wish to monitor, then click preview to see the type of results you'll receive. Some handy uses of Google Alerts include:

- monitoring a developing news story
- keeping current on a competitor or industry



getting the latest on a celebrity or event
keeping tabs on your favorite sports teams.

When you create an alert you'll be asked to choose the topic for it, the type of information you want (everything, news, blogs, videos, discussions); how often you want alerts (as-it-happens, once a day, once a week); volume (only the best results, all results); and your email address so you can get the alerts. The fault choices are everything, once a day and only the best results. Consider starting with the defaults and then tweaking them if the results you get aren't what you expected.

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You might also have to tweak your selected topic. My search for Annette is "Annette Funicello" (in the quotes). That limits results to items with her full name. On the other hand, my Sally Field search is just that (no quotes around the name), so I get everything with Sally and Field, which results in a few unexpected results. My UFO search results in news about unidentified flying objects, my intent, and the musical group UFO.

I haven't set up searches for computer-related items because I get several electronic newsletters that keep me informed about most of the technical subjects I'm interested in, but it's easy to establish queries for any subject you're interested in. For instance, you could use "Linux, Ubuntu," Microsoft, "Steve Jobs," "Bill Gates."

Or you could try your own name or the name of your business if you wanted to know what people are saying about you or your business.

And if you're a sports fan, you might want to track everything said about your favorite team(s). You'd need to set up a separate alert for each team name.

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The site lets you set up an alert and then shows sample results for it. Just for kicks, I tried my first and last name (in quotes) and got references to my Facebook page, an obituary for a John Weigle of Augusta, Ga. (I still get spam about real estate deals in Augusta), and the Weigle Music Ministries, which I had never heard of.

A search for CIPCUG showed only the CIPCUG Web site.

Not surprisingly, a search for "Los Angeles Dodgers" resulted in more hits than any of my other test searches. Topics that get lots of news coverage, such as the Dodgers, are obviously going to have more results than people or topics that are seldom in the news.

All the results have live links to whatever the alert finds.

The alerts tool isn't for everyone, but it's useful if you have any interests you want to track regularly.

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SIG News

LUNICS (Linux/Unix)

Andreas Meyer (lunics@acgnj.org)
<http://www.acgnj.org/groups/lunics.html>

LUNICS is a group for those who share an interest in Unix and similar operating systems. While we do quite a bit with Linux, we've also been known to discuss Solaris and BSD as well. Recent meetings have followed a Random Access format. See our web page for further information. (We meet on the first Monday of each month, at 8:00 PM). ☐

Main Meeting

Evan Williams (president@acgnj.org)
<http://www.acgnj.org/groups/mainmeet.html>

We meet on the first Friday of the month, at 8:00 PM. Each December, this meeting includes our Annual Business Meeting and Officer Elections. *No* meetings in July or August. ☐

Layman's Forum

Matt Skoda (som359@aol.com)
<http://www.acgnj.org/groups/laymans.html>

This SIG discusses issues of interest to novice users or those planning to get started in computing. Watch our Web page for updates and announcements. We meet at the same time as the Hardware Workshop. (On the second Monday of the month, at 8:00 PM). *No* meetings in July and August. ☐

Hardware Workshop

Mike Reagan (hardware@acgnj.org)

This group is dedicated to repairing, refurbishing and/or recycling older computers. Ten people attended the first meeting, so there is still a market for this type of event. Although we looked at some of the older equipment stored in the back room, most of our time was spent in talking about past experiences and planning for the future. Hopefully, we can establish a viable long-term schedule of projects, and keep the interest of those who attended this inaugural meeting. If you have a hardware problem, bring it in and we can all help fix or demolish it. (No guarantees either way.) We meet at the same time as the Layman's Forum. (On the second Monday of each month, at 8:00 PM). ☐

Java

Mike Redlich (mike@redlich.net)
<http://www.redlich.net/javasig/javasig.html>

This SIG covers beginner, intermediate, and advanced level Java programming. Primary focus is on developing useful/practical applets and applications. (We meet on the second Tuesday of each month, at 7:30 PM). ☐

Mobile Devices

Brenda Bell (mobdevsig@acgnj.org)

The Mobile Devices SIG focuses largely on current-generation cellphones and smart phones (such as Blackberry, Android, iPhone) which bridge the gap between basic cell phones and traditional computers, and how they can help you manage and organize your life. Our membership ranges from those who have recently acquired their first, basic cellphone to those who develop applications for today's modern smart phones, iPods, and ultra-portable computers. While we expect to spend much of our time investigating the built-in features and specialized applications available to modern smart phones, if you bring your basic (or multimedia) cell phone, iPod, or other mobile device with questions on how to use it, where to find applications, or what features they have, we are always happy to help! Meet and greet and plan where this event goes. Bring all your ideas, PDAs, fancy phones, etc. (We meet on the second Wednesday of alternate months (we get the even ones), at 7:30PM). ☐

WebDev

Evan Williams (webdev@acgnj.org)

This SIG is an open forum for all Website Development techniques and technologies, to encourage study and development of web sites of all kinds. All languages will be considered and examined. The current project is a CMS for the club. Anyone interested in starting a new project, come to the meeting and announce/explain. Provide as much detail as possible. WebDev should be an all-encompassing development and examination forum for all issues, applications, OS, languages and systems one can use to build Websites. We currently

have two web development language SIGs: .NET and Java; but other languages and OS need to be investigated, examined and tested; Windows, Linux, UNIX, DEC, Vax, HP etc. Intel-PC, Motorola - MAC etc. (We meet on the second Wednesday of alternate months (we get the odd ones), at 7:30 PM). ☞

Investment Software

Jim Cooper (jim@thecoopers.org)

http://www.acgnj.org/groups/sig_investment.html

The Investment SIG continues with presentations on how to use analysis programs TC2000 and TCNet. Large charts are presented on our pull down screen and illustrate the application of computer scans and formulas to find stocks for profitable investments. Technical analysis determines buy points, sell points and projected moves. Technical analysis can also be used on fundamentals such as earnings, sales growth, etc. We're no longer focusing on just Telechart. If you are using (or interested in) Tradestation, eSignal, VectorVest, or just in learning how to select and use charting and technical analysis, come join us!! (We meet on the second Thursday of the month, at 8 PM). ☞

NJ Gamers

Gregg McCarthy (greggmajestic@gmail.com)

<http://www.NJGamers.com>

www.lanparty.com

The Friday Night Frag starts at 6:00 PM on the second Friday of each month, and keeps going until 12 Noon on Saturday - 18 hours for 5 bucks!

BYOC - Bring your own computer.

BYOF - Bring your own food.

And if you don't like sitting on metal folding chairs...

BYO chair! ☞

Firefox

David McRitchie (firefox@acgnj.org).

This SIG is an open forum for all Firefox and Mozilla techniques and technologies, to encourage study and development of web sites of all kinds. All browsers will be considered and examined. All members and guests are invited to check out the design concepts and voice their opinion. (We meet on the third Monday of each month, at 7:30 PM). ☞

C/C++ Programming

Bruce Arnold (barnold@ieee.org)

<http://acgnj.barnold.us/index.html>

This is a forum for discussion of programming in general, beginning and intermediate level C, C++, C-Win programming, hardware, algorithms, and operating systems. We demonstrate real programming in a non-intimidating way, presenting complete code for working programs in 3-5 sheets of paper. (We meet on the third Tuesday of each month, at 7:30 PM). **No** meetings in July or August. ☞

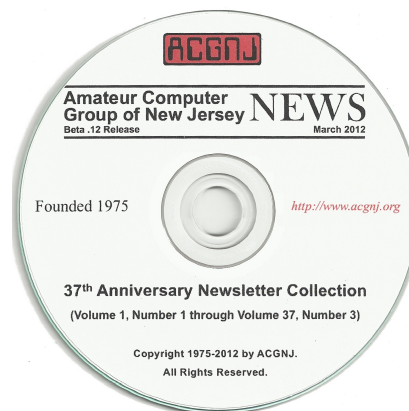
Window Pains

John Raff (jraff@comcast.net)

<http://www.acgnj.org/groups/winpains.html>

Intended to provide members with Windows oriented discussions, Microsoft and Linux style. Directed to more technological level of attendee, but newbies are welcomed. (We meet on the third Friday of the month at 8:00 PM). **No** meetings in July or August. ☞

37th Anniversary Newsletter CD Now On Sale



Beta .12 Release.

\$8.00, including postage.

(\$7.00 if you pick up a copy at a meeting).

Get yours today!

Back Issues Still Needed

Our collection remains incomplete. Below is a list of missing newsletters. Anyone who lends us one of these (or supplies a good clear copy) will receive the next CD as our thanks.

1975: #2 and #3 (dates uncertain).

1976: January.

1984: August.

1985: June, July, August, September. ☞

Guru Corner

If you need help with any of the technologies listed below, you can call on the person listed. Please be considerate and call before 10 PM.

Software

HTML	Mike Redlich	908-246-0410
	Jo-Anne Head	908-769-7385
ColdFusion	Jo-Anne Head	908-769-7385
CSS	Frank Warren	908-756-1681
	Jo-Anne Head	908-769-7385
Java	Mike Redlich	908-246-0410
C++	Bruce Arnold	908-735-7898
	Mike Redlich	908-246-0410
ASP	Mike Redlich	908-246-0410
Perl	John Raff	973-560-9070
	Frank Warren	908-756-1681
XML	Mike Redlich	908-246-0410
Genealogy	Frank Warren	908-756-1681
Home Automation	Frank Warren	908-756-1681

Operating Systems

Windows 3.1	Ted Martin	732-636-1942
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Discount Computer Magazine Price List

As described by the DealsGuy

	1 yr	2 yr	3 yr
Computer Games	\$10.95	20.95	29.95
Computer Gaming World	14.95	28.95	41.95
Computer Shopper1	16.97	32.95	47.95
Dr. Dobbs Journal	15.95	30.95	
Mac Addict	10.97		
Mac Home Journal	15.97	29.97	
Mac World	12.95		
Maximum PC	9.95	18.95	27.95
Microsoft System Journal	21.95	39.95	
PC Gamer	12.95		
PC Magazine (22/44/66 Issues)	25.97	48.95	68.95
PC World	16.95		
Wired	6.00	12.00	17.00

These prices are for new subscriptions and renewals. All orders must be accompanied by a check, cash or Money Order. Make payable to Herb Goodman, and mail to:

Herb Goodman, 8295 Sunlake Drive, Boca Raton, FL 33496

Telephone: 561-488-4465, e-mail: hgoodman@prodigy.net

Please allow 10 to 12 weeks for your magazines to start. For renewals you must supply an address label from your present subscription to insure the correct start of your renewal. As an extra service I will mail a renewal notice about 4 months prior to their expiration date. I carry more than 300 titles at excellent prices — email for prices. ☐

ACGNJ MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Sign up online at www.acgnj.org/membershipApplication.html and pay dues with PayPal.

US/CANADA		Dues	STUDENT	SENIOR CITIZEN (Over 65)
1 Year	\$25		\$20	\$20
2 Years	\$40			
3 Years	\$55			\$45

Mail this application and your check to:
 AMATEUR COMPUTER GROUP OF NEW JERSEY, INC., P.O. BOX 135, SCOTCH PLAINS, NJ 07076

☐ New Member ☐ Renewal ☐ Address Change

First Name _____ Last Name _____ Phone _____

Mailing Address _____ E-Mail _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ URL _____

What topics would you like to see covered at club meetings? _____

Other Local Computer Groups		
Princeton Macintosh User Group: 7:15 pm 2nd Tuesday, Jadwin Hall, A-10, Washington Rd, Princeton, (609) 252-1163, www.pmug-nj.org	Linux Users Group in Princeton: 7 pm, 2nd Wednesday, Lawrence Branch Mercer Library, Rt#1 & Darrah Lane, Lawrence NJ http://www.lugip.org	New York PC: 3rd Thurs, 7 pm, PS 41, 116 W 11th St. For info call hotline, (212) 533-NYPC, http://www.nypc.org
Computer Education Society of Philadelphia: Meetings & Workshops at Jem Electronics, 6622 Castor Ave, Philadelphia PA. www.cesop.org/	Brookdale Computer Users Group: 7 pm, 3rd Friday, Brookdale Community College, Bldg MAS Rm 100, Lincroft NJ. (732)-739-9633. www.bcug.com	NJ Macintosh User Group: 8 pm, 3rd Tuesday, Allwood Branch Library, Lyall Rd, Clifton NJ. (201) 893-5274 http://www.njmug.org
PC User Group of So. Jersey: 2nd Mon., 7 pm, Trinity Presb. Church, 499 Rt 70 E, Cherry Hill, NJ. L. Horn, (856) 983-5360	Hunterdon Computer Club: 8:30 am, 3rd Sat, Hunterdon Medical Center, Rt 31, Flemington NJ. www.hunterdoncomputerclub.org , (908) 995-4042.	NY Amateur Computer Group: 2nd Thurs, 7 pm, Rm 806 Silver Bldg, NYU, 32 Waverly Pl, NYC. http://www.nyacc.org
Morris Micro Computer Club: 7 pm 2nd Thurs., Morris County Library, Hanover Ave, Morristown NJ, (973) 267-0871. http://www.morrismicro.com	Central Jersey Computer Club: 8 pm, 4th Friday, Rm 74, Armstrong Hall, College of NJ. Rich Williams, (609) 466-0909.	NJ PC User Group: 2nd Thurs, Monroe Rm at Wyckoff Public Library, 7 pm. Maureen Shannon, (201) 853-7432, www.njpcug.org
Philadelphia Area Computer Society: 3rd Sat, 12 noon Main Meeting, groups 8 am-3 pm. Upper Moreland Middle School, Hatboro PA. (215) 764-6338. www.pacsnet.org	NJ Computer Club: 6:15 pm, 2nd Wednesday except Jul & Aug, North Branch Reformed Church, 203 Rt 28, Bridgewater NJ. http://www.njcc.org	Princeton PC Users Group: 2nd Monday, Lawrenceville Library, Alt Rt 1 & Darrah Lane, Lawrenceville, Paul Kurivchack (908) 218-0778, http://www.ppcug-nj.org

Classified

FREE TO MEMBERS. Use our classified ads to sell off your surplus computer stuff. Send copy to Classified, ACGNJ NEWS, P.O. Box 135, Scotch Plains NJ 07076 or e-mail to the editor, bdegroot@ptd.net. Classified ads are free to members, one per issue. Non-members pay \$10. Send check payable to ACGNJ Inc. with copy. Reasonable length, please.



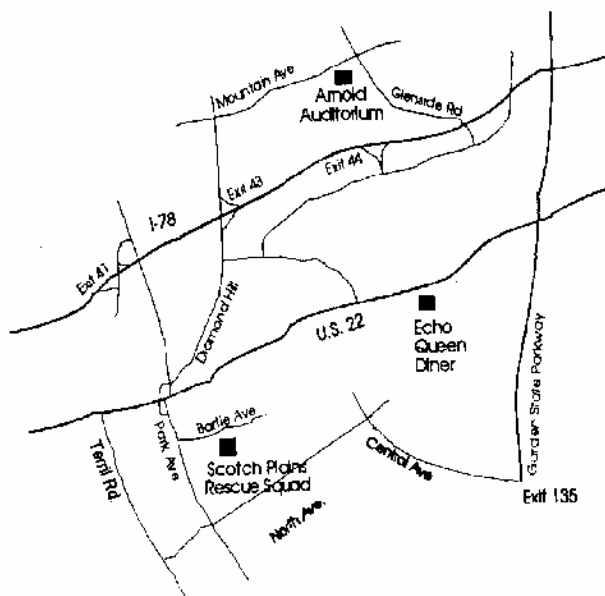
Radio and TV Programs

Computer Radio Show, WBAI 99.5 FM, NY, Wed. 8-9 p.m.

Software Review, The Learning Channel, Saturday 10-10:30 p.m.

On Computers, WCTC 1450 AM, New Brunswick, Sunday 1-4 p.m. To ask questions call (800) 677-0874.

PC Talk, Sunday from 8 p.m. to 10 p.m., 1210 AM Philadelphia. 1-800-876-WPEN



Directions to Meetings at Scotch Plains Rescue Squad, 1916 Bartle Ave., Scotch Plains NJ

From New York City or Northern New Jersey

Take Route 1&9 or the Garden State Parkway to US 22 Westbound.

From Southern New Jersey

Take Parkway north to Exit 135 (Clark). Stay on left of ramp, follow circle under Parkway. Bear right to Central Avenue; follow to Westfield and under RR overpass. Left at light to North Avenue; follow to light in Fanwood. Right on Martine (which becomes Park Ave). Right on Bartle Ave in middle of shopping district. Scotch Plains Rescue Squad (2-story brick) is located on the right. Do not park in the row next to the building — you'll be towed.

From I-78 (either direction)

Take exit 41 (Scotch Plains); follow signs to US 22. Turn right at light at bottom of hill and use overpass to cross Rt. 22. Follow US 22 Westbound directions.

From US 22 Westbound

Exit at Park Avenue, Scotch Plains after McDonalds on the right, diagonally opposite Scotchwood Diner on the left, immediately before the overpass. After exiting, turn left at the light and use overpass to cross US 22. Bear right at bottom of ramp to continue south on Park Avenue. Turn left at the second light (a staggered intersection). Scotch Plains Rescue Squad (2-story brick) is on the right. Do not park in the row next to the building — you'll be towed. We meet on the second floor, entering by the door at the right front of the building.

From Western New Jersey

Take US 22 Eastbound to the Park Avenue exit. The exit is about a mile past Terrill Road and immediately past the overpass. Exit onto Park Avenue South and follow the directions above to the Rescue Squad building. ☐